

BASS REFLEX BOX ARRANGEMENT INCLUDING STORAGE TOOL

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

[0001] This application is a National Stage of German Patent Application No. DE 103 16 677.7, filed on April 10, 2003. The disclosure of the above application is incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to a motor vehicle having a system for reproduction of sound, said sound reproduction system including at least one bass reflection box equipped with a bass reflection tube and/or a bass reflection opening, and with at least one built-in speaker.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] A bass reflection box, that is to say a Helmholtz resonator, consists as a rule of an air-filled housing, a built-in speaker and a bass reflection tube or a bass reflection opening. The speaker represents the first oscillatory system, while the volume of air represents the second oscillatory system. Between the driving speaker and the driven volume of air, proper design results in a resonance feedback, such that the compression wave emerging from the bass reflex opening experiences a phase shift to amplify the direct compression wave. By a suitable choice of resonance frequency, an amplification of the low-pitch reproduction is achieved with simultaneous reduction of the speaker

diaphragm deflection. For an optimal bass reflection box, a cavity of large volume is required in the motor vehicle, without decreasing the volume of the passenger and baggage compartments.

[0004] The present invention, then, is addressed to the problem of finding a suitable cavity in the motor vehicle in which a bass reflection box can be accommodated, while at the same time a portion of the space in the bass reflection box or a portion of the wall of the bass reflection box can serve some other use.

[0005] This problem is solved by the features of the principal claim. For this purpose, the bass reflection box is arranged in a side compartment of the interior of the vehicle, and a wall of the bass reflection box oriented towards the interior of the vehicle is at least partially covered with a sound-transmissive cover, the service tool and emergency aids being arranged between depressions in that wall and the cover.

[0006] In the case of motor vehicles, generally a service tool kit is included in the delivery. The minimum scope of this kit includes at least the tools required to repair tire damage, at least temporarily. These tools, or emergency aids, are commonly accommodated in the trunk compartment, in the spare wheel well, or in a side compartment. The same adjoining spaces are often used in motor vehicles, in particular station wagons, having a more elaborate sound reproduction system, for bass boxes. In these vehicles, it has been necessary heretofore to accommodate service tools and other emergency aids elsewhere. This has led as a rule to greater difficulty of access or unavailability in serious

emergency situations. Finally, the tool was to be found in a location unfamiliar to the average operator.

[0007] By the integration of the service tool kit with or into a bass reflection box installed in a side compartment, any separate unaccustomed accommodation is unnecessary. A, generally for the most part, unused space is used to improve the system sound, and, at the same time, the service tool kit becomes readily and handily accessible.

[0008] Further areas of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description provided hereinafter. It should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating the preferred embodiment of the invention, are intended for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] The present invention will become more fully understood from the detailed description and the accompanying drawings, wherein:

[0010] Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bass reflection box arranged in a station wagon; and

[0011] Figure 2 is a perspective view of the bass reflection box of Figure 1 with a cover opened.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0012] The following description of the preferred embodiments is merely exemplary in nature and is in no way intended to limit the invention, its application, or uses.

[0013] Figures 1 and 2 show the tail portion of a station wagon with hatchback open. For example, on the driver's side, a bass reflection box (30) is arranged behind the backrest (16) of the second row of seats between the wheel box and the opening (17) of the hatchback.

[0014] The bass reflection box (30) fills the body compartment in lengthwise direction of the vehicle between the C- and D- columns (12) below the rear side window (13). In this embodiment, by way of example, the bass reflection box (30) terminates downward at the level of the baggage compartment floor (11). Optionally, it may also extend below the floor level. The cavity of the bass reflection box (30) can be additionally connected to the cavities underneath the baggage compartment floor (11).

[0015] The bass reflection box (30) here has essentially the shape of an obliquely truncated rectangular solid, the oblique face being the surface in contact with the backrest (16). Towards the baggage compartment (10), it has an e.g. largely plane wall (31) oriented perpendicular to the transverse direction of the vehicle. The vertical extent of the wall (31) lies between the baggage compartment floor (11) and the bottom edge (14) of the rear side window (13). As top covering, the bass reflection box (30) has a wall (35) extending along the side window sill (14) and oriented parallel in transverse direction to the baggage

compartment floor (11). Towards the hatchback, the bass reflection box (30) terminates at a wall (36), matching the inclination and/or contour of the hatchback surfaces in that area. As a rule, the edges at which the walls (31, 35, 36) abut are configured as curved surfaces (37, 38, 39), whose minimum radii lie in the lower centimeter range.

[0016] In the area of the curved surface (37) between the e.g. vertical wall (31) and the upper top (35), whose minimal radius of curvature is, for example, greater than five centimeters, there is a bass reflection tube opening (47). It is e.g. the outer end of a bass reflection tube laid in the bass reflection box (30), acoustically connecting the back of the speaker to the passenger compartment (10). The bass reflection tube opening (47) is of funnel-shaped configuration, with oval cross-section (48). The horizontal cross-sectional extent of the opening (47) is e.g. about eight centimeters.

[0017] Between the funnel (48) and the edge (39), an unlocking key (45) is arranged. On the same level, there may be another key (46) between the funnel (48) and the backrest (16).

[0018] Underneath the funnel (48) and the keys (45, 46), the wall (31) has the conformation of a lid (40). The lid (40) is a hinged lid, openable about an axis of swing (44), located e.g. offset some millimeters parallelwise above the baggage compartment floor (11), cf. Figure 2. The lid (40) in closed condition lies with its inside (60) in front of a receptacle wall (50) of the bass reflection box (30). For the configuration of two hinges, in the lower portion of the receptacle wall (50), two hooks (33) are arranged which extend downward, whence each

engages an angled hinge recess (43) of the lid (40). The lid (40), locked to the receptacle wall (50), for example, in closed condition can be opened by pressing the unlocking key (45).

[0019] The geometrically rigid, unbreakable and, for example, plain lid (40), consisting at least partly of a sound-transmissive material or a suitable composite material, is e.g. approximately 10 millimeters thick. It protectively covers, among other things, a speaker (5) set into the mid-portion of the receptacle wall (50).

[0020] The lid (40) on the inside (60) has a plurality of depressions (62-66). Some of the depressions in the lid, when the lid (40) is closed, face other depressions in the receptacle wall (50). Between opposed depressions, parts of the service tool kit (3) and other emergency aids (2, 4) are arranged.

[0021] For example, directly beside the edge (39) there is a depression (51) in which a jack is inserted. In a depression (58), near the backrest (16), a warning triangle (2) is placed. In the upper part of the receptacle wall (50), there is a, for example, horizontal depression (57) in which an e.g. battery-operated pocket lamp (3) is inserted. These three depressions (51, 57, 58) in the embodiment, by way of example according to Figure 2, are not faced by any lid depressions. The depression (57) for the pocket lamp (3) has in its middle depression area e.g. three clamps (77) effecting a clamping around the pocket lamp (3).

[0022] In the inside (60) of the lid, opposed to the jack depression (51), e.g., an installation guide (4) for a wheel change is attached. Beside the

installation guide (4), there is a depression (62) for a plug pipe wrench to free the wheel nuts, a depression (63) for the plug pipe wrench lever, a depression (64) for a smaller plug pipe wrench with swing-out lever, a clamp attachment (69) for a monkey wrench, and a depression (66) for a cross-slot screwdriver. All depressions (62-66) and the clamp attachment (69) face depressions in the receptacle wall (50).

[0023] Into the lid-side depression (62) above and below, in each instance a face clamp (72) projects. Each face clamp (72) engages a frontal hexagonal recess of the plug pipe wrench to be accommodated. The two depressions (63, 64) offset towards the backrest (16) have clampers (73) in their mid-region on either side for claspless grasping of the tools to be inserted. Above the clampers (73) and the clamp attachment (69) - viz. shifted towards the upper edge of the lid - there are grip recesses (78) for readier removal of tools embedded with clamping effect. The depression (66) has two clamp teeth (76) on either side, matching the clamp teeth (77) of the pocket lamp holder.

[0024] By the arrangement of the depressions in the lid (40) and in the receptacle wall (50), and by the alternate complementation, i.e., some of the tools and emergency aids (2, 4) are accessible in the opened lid (40), while the rest are arranged in the receptacle wall (50), a greater handiness and better accessibility result.

[0025] Alternatively, it is of course possible to accommodate all tools and aids in the receptacle wall (50) only. Also, in that case, among other things, the clamp teeth (72-77) may be held by a plurality of elastic straps stretched e.g.

horizontally over the receptacle wall (50). In that case, the depressions would become nearly perpendicular to the straps.

[0026] The bass reflection box (30) as so far described is fixedly installed in the rear side compartment. The bass reflection box (30) may alternatively be of removable construction. In this modified embodiment, the bass reflection box (30) is constructed as an enclosed container. The bass reflection box (30) is connected by a cable at least five meters in length to the vehicle cable tree, the cable being bridged in the case of a built-in bass reflection box (30), optionally by an electrical bridge.

[0027] Through the availability of a long cable, the bass reflection box (30) e.g. in an emergency, can be carried to the site with its tools. In this bass reflection box (30), additionally a cardanically suspended searchlight - supplied by the vehicle circuit - may be installed. The latter may serve to light the emergency site, or by blinking, possibly with color filter, secure the emergency site. Additionally, in such a bass reflection box (30), a receptacle carrying current from the vehicle circuit may be integrated as well.

[0028] At the same time, during repairs, the sound reproduction system may be in operation. Further, the bass reflection box (30) can be employed to enhance the vehicle leisure-time quality for external audio.

[0029] With the externally usable bass reflection box (30), the latter is released from the vehicle superstructure by the key (46). The funnel (48) serves as grip trough in transport. To avoid contact of the lid (40) with the commonly soiled roadway surface, the lid (40) can be secured, against too wide opening,

with a tether. In another modification, provision may be made to hang the lid (40) out on the bass reflection box (30) in order to bring it to the site with the tools like a tablet. The separate lid (40) may also serve on the spot as a knee pad.

[0030] Of course, the bass reflection box (30) may alternatively be arranged in the step or rear of a vehicle. Here, the upper wall (35) of the bass reflection box (30) will extend into the neighborhood of the hat rack. That is where the bass reflection tube terminates ahead of the rear panel in the direction of travel (9). At the same time, a portion of the hat rack or of the backrest (16) must be sound-transmissive for the direct sound of the speaker (5).

[0031] The description of the invention is merely exemplary in nature and, thus, variations that do not depart from the gist of the invention are intended to be within the scope of the invention. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the spirit and scope of the invention.